

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9349

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 906

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TBIO, CE

SUBJ: FORMER PM DUDLEY SENANAYAKE SUFFERS HEART ATTACK

1. DR. MENARD GERTLER OF NEW YORK, NOTED AMERICAN HEART SPECIALIST AND HEW CONSULTANT, INFORMED US APRIL 10 THAT FORMER PM DUDLEY SENANAYAKE HAD " SEVERE" HEART ATTACK ONE WEEK AGO AND WENT INTO SHOCK EARLY THIS MORNING. DR. GERTLER, VISITING HERE IN CONNECTION WITH HEW ORTHOPEDIC AND CARDIOLOGY PROJECTS, WAS CALLED INTO CASE AT 6 AM APRIL 10 BY CARDIOLOGIST DR. THEVA BUELL, WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING DR. GERTLER'S SCHEDULE. GERTLER HAVE ADVICE ON TREATMENT AND WILL SEE DUDLEY AT LEAST TWICE MORE BEFORE GERTLER'S DEPARTURE LATE EVENING 11 APRIL. GERTLER SAID FORMER PM WAS " VERY SICK" , HE WAS DIABETIC, HYPERTENSIVE, AND OVERWEIGHT, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY GERTLER WAS " FEARFUL FOR HIS LIFE."

2. DR. GERTLER WILL ADDRESS HEART ASSOCIATION EVENING 10 APRIL AND THEN ATTEND DINNER IN HIS HONOR GIVEN BY PM BANDARANAIKE. HE WILL GO TO KANDY APRIL 11 TO CONSULT ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON DR. MARK AMERASINGHE (COLOMBO 676).

3. COMMENT. DEATH OR WITHDRAWAL FROM POLITICAL SCENE FOR HEALTH REASONS OF UNP PRESIDENT SENANAYAKE WOULD LEAD TO CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL RESHUFFLING IN SRI LANKA AND REMOVE
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FROM POTENTIAL CONTENTION FOR PRIME MINISTERSHIP THE ONE VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PM BANDARANAIKE IN TERMS NAIGRATION TAX. THESE QUESTIONS IRRITATED MR. KOSYGIN WHO SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD EXPLAIN WHY ISRAEL HAD NO RPT NO BASIS FOR ITS AGRESSION, AN ACT WHICH IS DENOUNCED BY MOST COUNTRIES. (KOSYGIN' S IRRITATION PROMPTED A RADIO COMMENTATOR TO SAY THAT HE FELT THE PRESS CONFERENCE GAVE A BITTER AFTER-TASTE.) IN STIFFER LANGUAGE THAN USUAL (REF B) KOSYGIN DEFENDED EGYPT' S " RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF." HE SAID THAT ATTENTION OF WORLD SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ISRAEL' S AGRESSION, THAT ALL OCCUPIED AREAS MUST BE RETURNED, AND THAT SOVIETS WILL GIVE ARAB COUNTRIES AID THEY NEED FOR THEIR STRUGGLE TO REGAIN THEIR LAND. ON EMIGRATION TAX KOSYGIN SAID LAW IS STILL ON THE BOOKS BUT THAT EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE IN CASES OF PEOPLE UNABLE TO PAY. HE SAID DECISIONS WERE MADE ON A LOWER ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL BUT THAT HE KNEW THERE WERE NO ACUTE PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

3. KOSYGIN WAS ASKED IF IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT PALME HAD USED STRONGER LANGUAGE CRITICIZING THE UNITEDSTATES (ON VIETNAM) THAN THAT USED BY SOVIET LEADERS. KOSYGIN CALLED THE QUESTION STUPID.

4. MOST OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE DEALT WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. KOSYGIN STRONGLY STRESSED NEED FOR LONG- RANGE PLANNING OF SWEDISH/ SOVIET TRADE.

5. KOSYGIN WAS INTERVIEWED BY FOUR RUSSIAN SPEAKING SWEDISH JOURNALISTS IN PROGRAM SENT ON TV EVENING OF APRIL 5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF HOW HE COULD BRING HIMSELF TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN MOSCOW AT A TIME WHEN HANOI BEING BOMBED AND HAIPHONG HARBOR MINED, KOSYGIN REPLIED THAT THE TWO SUPERPOWERS MUST REDUCE AREAS OF TENSION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. HE REPORTED THE MANY IMPORTANT AREAS IN WHICH NIXON VISIT HAD ACHIEVED PROGRESS MORE RAPIDLY THAN " COULD HAVE OTHER WISE BEEN EXPECTED." AS FOR AID TO DRV, KOSYGIN ASKED REPORTER TO TELL HIM WHO HAD DONE MORE TO HELP NORTH VIETNAM THAN USSR. HE SAID " NOT EVEN DURING MOST DIFFICULT PERIODS DID WE STOP OUR ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO STOP AGGRESSION BY MILITARY MEANS ALONE. WE ACTED BOTH IN THE INTEREST OF THE USSR AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIETNAM."

6. KOSYGIN WAS ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE THEORY OF THE CONVERGENCE OF CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM. HE SAID USSR IS A SOCIALIST STATE MOVING TOWARD COMMUNISM, A PROCESS WHICH MAY BE REACHED IN TWO YEARS OR ONE HUNDRED YEARS. USSR IS FAITHFUL

TO ITS IDEALS AND IS NOT RPT NOT MOVING TOWARD CAPITALISM,
KOSYGIN SAID.

7. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON PRC KOSYGIN RECALLED THAT THE
USSR AND PRC HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING (ON BORDER QUESTIONS) FOR FOUR
YEARS. HE SAID SOVIET POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS
WITH CHINA AND THAT USSR SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR EXISTING
TENSION. HE SAID HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD
USSR AND CALLED CHINESE STATEMENTS THAT CHINA IS USSR' S NUMBER
ONE ENEMY." AND THAT SOVIET PLANS TO ATTACK CHINA, " AN OUTRIGHT
LIE."

8. AS IN CASE OF GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE MUCH ATTENTION FOCUSED
ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND SWEDEN, KOSYGIN AGAIN
STRESSED NEED FOR LONG- TERM PLANNING. RECENT DECLINE IN TRADE
IS A SHORT- TERM PHENOMENON, DUE AMONG OTHER THINGS TO DOWNTURN
IN SWEDISH ECONOMY, KOSYGIN SAID.

9. ASKED ABOUT PROBLEMS IN SOVIET AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, KOSYGIN
BLAMED LAST YEAR' S BAD CROPS TO ABNORMALLY BAD WEATHER OF A TYPE
WHICH OCCURS " ONLY ONCE OR TWICE EVERY CENTRY."

10. KOSYGIN GAVE SIMILAR ANSWERS AS IN GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE
TO QUESTIONS ON SOVIET EMIGRATION TAX. THROUGHOUT TV PRESS
CONFERENCE (IN CONTRAST TO ANTI- ISRAELI OUTBURST AT GENERAL PRESS
CONFERENCE) KOSYGIN WAS RELAXED AND REASONABLE.

11. COMMENT. DURING BOTH PRESS CONFERENCES AS WELL AS IN OTHER
PUBLIC UTTERANCES (REF C) KOSYGIN SAVED MOST STINGING ATTACKS
FOR ISRAEL AND PRC. HE GAVE DUE CREDIT TO ROLE OF SWEDISH
" ACTIVE NEUTRALITY" BUT AVOIDED EFFUSIVE PRAISE OF SWEDISH ROLE
IN AID TO NORTH VIETNAM. AT SAME TIME HE AVOIDED SEVERAL OPPOR-
TUNITIES TO ATTACK U. S. ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN LOW- KEY BUSINESSLIKE
PRESENTATIONS WITH EMPHASIS ON SOVIET/ SWEDISH TRADE AND ECONOMIC
RELATIONS SUFFERED TO SOME EXTENT BY OUTBURST AGAINST ISRAELI
REPORTER WHICH DOUBTLESS REFLECTED SOVIET SENSITIVITIES OVER
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MARKED ATTENTION IN SWEDISH MEDIA DURING VISIT TO PROBLEMS OF
JEWS IN DOBIRYN UNION. AS REPORTED REF A, THIS SITUATION WAS
TYPICAL OF ENTIRE VISIT.
OLSEN

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